You here ſee a little boy attentively poring over his book, while Minerva is endeavouring to entice him from it, by offering him a marble. The meaning of it appears to me to be this: Minerva, who is the ſuppoſed goddeſs of wiſdom, is not to be courted by a too conſtant attention to ſtudy, and without devoting a ſmall portion of time to amuſement, for which purpoſe ſhe is offering him a marble as an aſſiſtant to recreation. I could wiſh to make even our amuſements uſeful; and, I am convinced, ſuch they may be made with a very little attention.

I recollected that ſome great men, far advanced on the ſtage of life, have taken ſingular pleaſure in turning back to view the employments of their boyiſh days, and in reading the remarks they then made. Like them, I turned back to all my old papers; and among them found many of the remarks, and ſome whole chapters, of what follows. Where they wanted amendment, I corrected them; ſuch as diſpleaſed me, I expunged; and where any new additions ſeemed to be neceſſary, I attentively made them.

It

It may perhaps be expected, that I ſhould run through all the long catalogue of the ſports and paſtimes of boys; but that would be impoſſible in a volume of this ſize, as well as uſeleſs. To mention thoſe games, which are too ſimple in themſelves to admit of any improvement, and ſo well known as to ſtand in no need of a deſcription, would be idle. What more can be ſaid of this paſtime,

than that when two boys play at battledoor and ſhuttlecock, they ſhould endeavour to ſtrike it in a proper direction, neither too gently nor too hard; that the battledoor ſhould be made of well-ſeaſoned

 oak;

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